Claims 1, 4, 12, 21, 25 and 28 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 21 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 12, 21 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,809,831 (Minari) in view of U.S. 6,864,992 (Okada). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern management of print job information. In accordance with the claims, print job information that would normally be accumulated for a particular print job is filtered out based on job information for each print job, such as the type of the print job, the printer driver used to generate the print job, whether or not the print job has any actual print data, etc. In one aspect, job log information is acquired from a client computer or an image forming apparatus. The job log information includes driver information identifying a driver program which generates the issued job and port information identifying a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer. The driver information and port information is registered in a non recording target database in order to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information that is not to be accumulated. Then it is determined whether or not to accumulate print job information by using the job log information in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the acquired driver information and the acquired port information is registered in the non-recording target database. By utilizing these features, a user may register identifying job log information used to avoid accumulating print job statistics in a database using driver information and port information and to filter job log information corresponding to a print job that isn't associated with a printout.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method of recording or accumulating job log information on a job issued from a client computer to an image forming apparatus. The apparatus includes: an acquisition step of acquiring the job log information from the client computer or the image forming apparatus, wherein the job log information includes driver information and port information, the driver information identifying a driver program which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job and the port information identifying a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer; a registration step of registering, in the non recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated; a driver information acquisition step of acquiring the driver information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step; a port information acquisition step of acquiring the port information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step; a determination step of determining whether or not to accumulate by using the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the driver information acquired in the driver information acquisition step and the port information acquired in the port information acquisition step is registered in a non-recording target database; and an accumulation step of recording or accumulating by using the job log information determined in the determination step to be accumulated, wherein, in the registration step, the driver information related to a driver used for outputting a PDF file to the client computer or an external device is registered in the non-recording target database, and wherein, in the registration step, the port information indicating

that a job is output to a device which does not have a printing function is registered in the non-recording target database.

Claims 21 and 25 are directed to a server and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references of Minari and Okada, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1, 21 and 25. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the features of acquiring the job log information from the client computer or the image forming apparatus, wherein the job log information includes driver information and port information, the driver information identifying a driver program which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job and the port information identifying a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer, registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated and determining whether or not to accumulate by using the job log information, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the acquired driver information and port information is registered in the non-recording target database.

In contrast to the present invention, Minari discloses that a printer 107 performs print processing based on a print job object sent from a host computer and adds a result of the processing (success or failure) to the print job object to sent back to the host computer.

In Minari, the print job object has an attribute for specifying a printer to be used for printing the print job object. The attribute includes a printer name, printing request, paper size, host name and so on. For example, after S902 in fig. 9 of Minari, it is disclosed that printer

107 refers the attribute of the received print job object, performs printing processing based on the print job object when the attribute specifies the printer 107, and transfers the print job object to the other printer set in the attribute when the attribute does not specify the printer 107. Also, as disclosed in Fig. 12 of Minari, the attribute is used on processing the received print job object and it is determined in S1002 whether or not the attribute in the print job object matches an attribute of the printer 107. If the printer 107 cannot handle the print job object, the printer 107 adds information "Mismatch" in the print job object and replies with that information to the host computer 101. Minari further discloses that printer 107 includes a control unit 406 that provides output instructions to output unit 105 and 106, a print job accumulator 407 that accumulates print job objects and a memory 405 that stores a printer attribute section 408 where attributes of the printer, such as paper size, color printing, monochrome printing, etc., are stored. (See Minari, column 4, lines 11 to 15).

However, nowhere does Minari disclose or suggest acquiring the job log information from the client computer or the image forming apparatus wherein the job log information includes driver information and port information, the driver information identifying a driver program which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job, and the port information identifying a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer. Nor does Minari disclose registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated.

In addition, Minari discloses print job attribute program 601 as a program executed by the printer 107 as shown in Fig 6. This is a program to be stored in print job

- 11 -

processing section 501 of the print job object, and judges whether or not the attribute values set in the print job attribute are compatible with the printer. However, Minari fails to disclose or suggest determining whether or not to accumulate by using the acquired job log information, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the acquired driver information and the acquired port information is registered in the non-recording target database as featured in the present claims.

Okada has been reviewed and Applicant submits that nothing in Okada supplies that which is missing from Minari.

In light of the deficiencies in Minari and Okada, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 21 and 25 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.